

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Maine Bureau of Health Divisions, Offices and Programs

FROM: Dora Anne Mills, MD, MPH, Director

DATE: January 13, 2003

RE: Bureau-wide Policy on Racial and Ethnic Categories for Data Collection

Policy Statement: All Maine Bureau of Health Divisions, Offices and Programs shall use the same standard set of racial and ethnic categories and definitions as a **minimum set**¹ for the collection of data for any purpose.

Effective immediately, the seven (7) racial categories that shall be used are:

- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Asian
- Black or African-American
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- White
- Some other race
- Two or more races

The two (2) ethnic categories² that shall be used are:

- Hispanic or Latino
- Non-Hispanic or Latino

Definitions of these categories, as provided by the federal Office of Management and Budget and the U.S. Bureau of the Census, are to be used as standard definitions of these categories by the Maine Bureau of Health. These definitions are attached to this memorandum.

¹ This **minimum set** must be used to collect data by programs/offices that collect racial and ethnic data. It does not prevent a program/office from *collecting more* than the minimum set nor does it preclude *reporting more or less* than the minimum set. Please see the section of this policy memorandum on implementation for information on technical assistance.

² During calendar year 2003, two surveys---the Child Health Survey and the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System---will be piloting two additional ethnic categories for the Bureau: French-American or Franco-American, and Non-French-American or Franco-American. The results of these pilots will be reviewed and inform future decisions re: adding these categories to the minimum set for the Bureau of Health.

Rationale: Standard racial and ethnic categories and definitions are needed in the Maine Bureau of Health in order to assure the validity and reliability of population health data. This is particularly important as we work toward eliminating health disparities and assuring longer, healthier lives for all Mainers. Further, this policy is in compliance with the federal mandate in Office of Management and Budget Directive 15 (OMB 15), effective January 1, 2003.

Implementation: All Maine Bureau of Health Divisions, Offices, and Programs should make every effort to implement this policy immediately, and in any event, no later than April 1, 2003. Technical assistance related to implementation, including how to address both data collection and reporting issues, is available from the Bureau's Office of Health Data and Program Management.

This following grid includes the Office of Management and Budget Directive 15 race and ethnicity categories and definitions that have been adopted by the Maine Bureau of Health. As background information, this document also has more background information provided by the definitions of these categories provided by the U.S. Census.

	OMB 15 Definitions	Census Definitions
Racial Categories		
American Indian or Alaska Native.	A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.	<p>Includes persons who classified themselves as such in one of the specific race categories identified below.</p> <p><i>American Indian</i>--Includes persons who indicated their race as "American Indian," entered the name of an Indian tribe, or reported such entries as Canadian Indian, French-American Indian, or Spanish-American Indian.</p> <p><i>American Indian Tribe</i>--Persons who identified themselves as American Indian were asked to report their enrolled or principal tribe. Therefore, tribal data in tabulations reflect the written tribal entries reported on the questionnaires. Some of the entries (for example, Iroquois, Sioux, Colorado River, and Flathead) represent nations or reservations.</p> <p>The information on tribe is based on self-identification and therefore does not reflect any designation of Federally- or State-recognized tribe. Information on American Indian tribes is presented in summary tape files and special data products. The information is derived from the American Indian Detailed Tribal Classification List for the 1990 census. The classification list represents all tribes, bands, and clans that had a specified number of American Indians reported on the census questionnaire.</p> <p><i>Eskimo</i>--Includes persons who indicated their race as "Eskimo" or reported entries such as Arctic Slope, Inupiat, and Yupik.</p> <p><i>Aleut</i>--Includes persons who indicated their race as "Aleut" or reported entries such as Alutiiq, Egegik, and Pribilovian.</p>
Asian	A person having origins in any of the original peoples of	Includes "Chinese," "Filipino," "Japanese," "Asian Indian," "Korean," "Vietnamese," and "Other Asian." In some tables, "Other Asian" may not be shown

	<p>the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.</p>	<p>separately, but is included in the total Asian population.</p> <p><i>Chinese</i>--Includes persons who indicated their race as "Chinese" or who identified themselves as Cantonese, Tibetan, or Chinese American. In standard census reports, persons who reported as "Taiwanese" or "Formosan" are included here with Chinese. In special reports on the Asian or Pacific Islander population, information on persons who identified themselves as Taiwanese are shown separately.</p> <p><i>Filipino</i>--Includes persons who indicated their race as "Filipino" or reported entries such as Philipino, Philippine, or Filipino American.</p> <p><i>Japanese</i>--Includes persons who indicated their race as "Japanese" and persons who identified themselves as Nipponese or Japanese American.</p> <p><i>Asian Indian</i>--Includes persons who indicated their race as "Asian Indian" and persons who identified themselves as Bengalese, Bharat, Dravidian, East Indian, or Goanese.</p> <p><i>Korean</i>--Includes persons who indicated their race as "Korean" and persons who identified themselves as Korean American.</p> <p><i>Vietnamese</i>--Includes persons who indicated their race as "Vietnamese" and persons who identified themselves as Vietnamese American.</p> <p><i>Cambodian</i>--Includes persons who provided a write-in response such as Cambodian or Cambodia.</p> <p><i>Hmong</i>--Includes persons who provided a write-in response such as Hmong, Laohmong, or Mong.</p> <p><i>Laotian</i>--Includes persons who provided a write-in response such as Laotian, Laos, or Lao.</p> <p><i>Thai</i>--Includes persons who provided a write-in response such as Thai, Thailand, or Siamese.</p> <p><i>Other Asian</i>--Includes persons who provided a write-in response of Bangladeshi, Burmese, Indonesian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Amerasian, or Eurasian. See figure 2 for other groups comprising "Other Asian."</p>
--	--	--

Black or African American	A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa. Terms such as "Haitian" or "Negro" can be used in addition to "Black or African American."	Includes persons who indicated their race as "Black or Negro" or reported entries such as African American, Afro-American, Black Puerto Rican, Jamaican, Nigerian, West Indian, or Haitian.
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.	<p>Includes persons who indicated their race as "Pacific Islander" by classifying themselves into one of the following groups or identifying themselves as one of the Pacific Islander cultural groups of Polynesian, Micronesian, or Melanesian.</p> <p><i>Hawaiian</i>--Includes persons who indicated their race as "Hawaiian" as well as persons who identified themselves as Part Hawaiian or Native Hawaiian.</p> <p><i>Samoaan</i>--Includes persons who indicated their race as "Samoaan" or persons who identified themselves as American Samoa or Western Samoa.</p> <p><i>Guamanian</i>--Includes persons who indicated their race as "Guamanian" or persons who identified themselves as Chamorro or Guam.</p> <p><i>Other Pacific Islander</i>--Includes persons who provided a write-in response of a Pacific Islander group such as Tahitian, Northern Mariana Islander, Palauan, Fijian, or a cultural group such as Polynesian, Micronesian, or Melanesian.</p>
White	A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.	Includes persons who indicated their race as "White" or reported entries such as Canadian, German, Italian, Lebanese, Near Easterner, Arab, or Polish.
Some other race		Includes all other persons not included in the "White," "Black," "American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut," and the "Asian or Pacific Islander" race categories described above. Persons reporting in the "Other race" category and providing write-in entries such as multiracial, multiethnic, mixed, interracial, Wesort, or a Spanish/Hispanic origin group (such as Mexican, Cuban, or Puerto Rican) are included here.

Two or more races		People may have chosen to provide two or more races either by checking two or more race response check boxes, by providing multiple write-in responses, or by some combination of check boxes and write-in responses.
Ethnic Categories		
Hispanic or Latino	A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race. The term, "Spanish origin," can be used in addition to "Hispanic or Latino."	Persons of Hispanic origin were identified by a question that asked for self-identification of the person's origin or descent. Respondents were asked to select their origin (and the origin of other household members) from a "flash card" listing ethnic origins. Persons of Hispanic origin, in particular, were those who indicated that their origin was Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or some other Hispanic origin. It should be noted that persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.